

Through the annual appropriations process, many Members of Congress request funding for specific projects in their home districts. These funding requests do not add funds to the federal budget, but set aside funds for a specific project that would otherwise be allocated to—and spent by—federal bureaucrats.

This year, as in previous years, Members of Congress were required to submit a formal statement to certify that neither they nor their family members had a financial interest in the projects they requested. Additionally, every project that received funding clearly identified the Member of Congress who requested it.

In addition to these rules and in order to be as open and transparent as possible, Congressman Walz had previously took the additional, highly unusual step of publicly releasing a list of the projects for which he requested federal funds. In previous years, Congressman Walz was the only member of the Minnesota Congressional delegation and one of the few Members of Congress to take this step.

This year, following Congressman Walz's lead, the Congress required this step of all Members of Congress. Congressman Walz was proud that the full Congress followed his unprecedented level of openness and transparency.

Congressman Walz helped secure funding for the following projects because they will create jobs and have a transformative impact on southern Minnesota. These projects were submitted

to him by state and local officials in Minnesota, as well as community and non-profit organizations

[Click here](#) to view Congressman Walz's FY2010 Appropriations requests.

[Click here](#) to view Congressman Walz's FY2009 Appropriations requests.

[Click here](#) to view Congressman Walz's FY2008 Appropriations requests.

While I am proud of the success we have had in restoring transparency to the appropriations process, I believe more needs to be done. I am a co-sponsor of H.R. 2512, a bi-partisan bill authored by Rep. Jeff Flake that would ban all earmarks to private, for-profit entities. I have always declined earmark requests from for-profit companies on these grounds, and this legislation would eliminate this dubious practice altogether.